

Department of State  
UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 BUENOS 06690 251311Z  
ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
10-15 NSAE-00 HA-00 PA-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SPRS-01  
/066 W

11/26/82

AH 095

R 261139Z NOV 82  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5751  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

BUENOS AIRES 6690

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IT, AR  
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE DISAPPEARED

REFS: (A) ROME 26334, (B) BUENOS AIRES 6232 (NOTAL)

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HERE, SERGIO KOJANCICH, SEEMS TO HAVE COME THROUGH THE OUTCRY OVER THE ITALIAN DISAPPEARED FAIRLY WELL SO FAR. HE HAS NOT ENCOUNTERED GREAT HOSTILITY IN THE GOVERNMENT AND TELLS ME THAT POLITICIANS, HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND ORDINARY ARGENTINES HAVE CONGRATULATED HIM ON THE GOI'S PUBLIC STANCE.

3. WHAT WORRIES KOJANCICH, HOWEVER, IS THAT A VISIT TO ARGENTINA BY THE PROPOSED PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATING COMMISSION MIGHT IN FACT MATERIALIZE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS TOLD HIM THAT SUCH A MISSION WOULD BE REGARDED AS AN INTOLERABLE INTERVENTION IN ARGENTINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. EX-PRESIDENT FRONDI, LATELY A HIGHLY VOCAL CRITIC OF THE METHODS EMPLOYED BY THE MILITARY IN THE "DIRTY WAR", HAS WARNED HIM THAT EVEN THE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS MOST DEVOTED TO THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD RESENT THAT KIND OF ITALIAN "TUTELAGE".

4. KOJANCICH'S COUNTER-PROPOSAL IS FOR A JOINT EC DEMARCHE HERE ON BEHALF OF THE DISAPPEARED CITIZENS OF THE VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. (COMMENT: THE GOA IS STILL SHAKING FROM THE LAST EC DEMARCHE ON LIFTING THE TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST BRITAIN - REF B.) HE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN EXPLORING FOR A SOLUTION TO THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF THE DISAPPEARED, WHICH HE RECOGNIZES AS THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO DEMOCRATIZATION IN THIS COUNTRY. THE AMBASSADOR HAS FLOATED THE IDEA WITH THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AMONG OTHERS THAT A NUREM-BERG-STYLE TRIAL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SUCCESSIVE MILITARY JUNTAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPRESSION WOULD DISPOSE OF THE ISSUE WITHOUT AFFECTING THE OFFICERS CORPS AS SUCH. HE NOTES THAT ADMIRAL MESSARA HAS PUBLICLY OFFERED TO ACCEPT HIS SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY IF OTHERS WILL ACCEPT THEIRS. THE UNDERSECRETARY WAS APPARENTLY NOT VERY ENCOURAGING.

5. COMMENT: THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIKELY TO RESPOND IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE FASHION TO THIS PUBLIC PRESSURE FROM THE ITALIAN AND OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, THE RESULTING PUBLICITY HAS HELPED TO FORCE THE ISSUE TO THE FOREFRONT ONCE AGAIN WHERE POLITICIANS LIKE FRONDI HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT. BUT NEITHER THEY NOR ANYONE ELSE SEEM TO HAVE ANY PRACTICAL IDEAS AS TO HOW THE PROBLEM CAN BE LAID TO REST. FRONDI'S LATEST PROPOSAL IN ESSENCE IS THAT THE MILITARY SHOULD CONFESS AND THAT THE ENTIRE NATION SHOULD THEN JOIN IN A DAY OF PRAYER. THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO AND OTHER HUMAN-RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WILL HAVE NONE OF THAT; THEY INSIST THE GUILTY MUST BE PUNISHED. SHLAUDEMANN

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

840195  
12306